SANDBURG, CARL—*Continued*

"Without being in the least sentimental, Carl Sandburg has at last written the book about America that everyone will be able to read and enjoy."

+ U S Quarterly Bk R 9:124 Je '53 230w

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+ — N Y Times p32 Mr 1 '53 160w

Reviewed by M. G. Davis

Sat R 36:65 Ap 4 '53 140w

SANDERSON, DOUGLAS. Dark passions subdue. 296p $3 Dodd

52-10914

Story of the relationships among a group of male students in a Canadian medical school.

"Most of the time the author is the pitiless, ironic commentator, but happily he has a degree of compassion too. Reading universal truths into this story of one young man's falling in love with another takes considerable imagination, but the author's effective style and his sense of drama and insight is impressive."

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SANDERSON, IVAN TERRANCE. John and Juan in the jungle; with 25 original paintings in full color by Miguel Covarrubias. 64p $3 Dodd

Natural history—Juvenile literature

52-12973

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+ N Y Herald Tribune Bk R p21 My 17 '53 120w

"The author manages to work a good deal of action into these episodes. The general effect is tantalizing and just because of that

S. u

4 pub 1953 page 65
Vol 36 #14

BOOKS · FOR · YOUNG · PEOPLE

A WISH GRANTED

THIS department remembers protesting vigorously some time ago the lack of good stories that told of boys and girls living and having adventures in other countries. No sooner had the protest gone to print than there appeared on our desk a bulky package of galleys. Straightway we were off on that dramatic, exciting journey through the Gobi Desert to the mountains of Inner Mongolia with Big Tiger and Christian—a strange country and two irresistible boy heroes.

Now that the spring books are coming in we find among them an exceptionally good translation from the German—the story of a family in postwar Berlin. It is a tragic setting, but there is not one really depressing moment in the story. Faith in one another, courage, initiative, humor bring to the saga of the Lechow family unfailing interest and a spirit that is almost gaiety. We find, too, a charming story about a little French ballet dancer in the Paris of today, and a new Françoise picture book about a little white goat. From Ireland, through Richard Bennett, come eight old Celtic folktales with his effective drawings. Doubtless other books as good are on the way. It is fun to make a wish and then sit back and watch it come true!

—MARY GOULD DAVIS.

THE ARK. By Margot Benary-Isbert. Translated by Clara Richard Winston. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 246 pp. $2.50.

This is a book that we have all been waiting for—the story of a family in a foreign country, of a family that had been completely disrupted by war and had won, through their faith in one another, a new security. It is all the more important because the country happens to be postwar Germany. We discover the Lechow family—mother, Margaret, Matthias, Josy, and Andrea—living in two rooms in West Berlin, settling down with a queer old landlady, happy in the crowded quarters because they are together with a roof over their heads. Mrs. Lechow has a positive genius for making a home out of practically nothing. Their father, a doctor, is a prisoner in Russia. Matthias is assigned by the Labor Office to cleaning up the rubble-strewn streets. Joey and Andrea go to school and Joey, in his free hours and accompanied by his equally enterprising little friend, Hans Ulrich, searches the ruined houses and basements for treasure and amazes everyone, including themselves, by finally finding it. Only Margaret, sensitive, deeply hurt by the violent death of her twin brother, is restless and uncertain. Then she finds Rowan Farm and meets its generous, energetic mistress, Mrs. Almut. A very real friendship develops between them as Margaret works on the farm tending the animals. Later Matthias joins her and becomes a successful market gardener. Together he and Margaret, with their musical friend, Dieter, build a little house out of an old railroad car and call it The Ark. Gradually they add to it until it houses the whole family. In the comparative peace of the country, surrounded by growing things and the birds and animals that Margaret tends so well, they settle down. There Dr. Lechow finds them when he finally gets back from Russia—a broken man but a man with something to hope for, to live for. There is no trace of sentimentality in this story but it does "pull at the heart-strings." It is the mother, really, who dominates it, with her courage, her humor, her tolerance, her quiet determination to keep the family together. We leave them reluctantly. We long to know more about them. Boys and girls who read this book will feel as close to Matthias and Joey, Margaret and Andrea as though they were next-door neighbors. It is an important book, one that should reach many, many young Americans.

—By Richard Bennett, from "Little Dermot."

LITTLE DERMOT AND THE THIRSTY STONE: and Other Irish Folk Tales. Written and illustrated by Richard Bennett. New York: Coward-McCann. 92 pp. $2.50.

So many of the lively Celtic folk tales are now out of print. It is especially timely to welcome this collection written and illustrated by Richard Bennett. He remembers hearing some of the tales when he was "a very small boy in Ireland" recalling that "my grandmother laughed very loudly when she told this tale." The title story is a variant of the Legend of Knockmany and of the Brittany legend of Ivon Tortik. There are other variants, but as Mr. Bennett tells them they are pure Irish. The strong, humorous black-and-white drawings are exactly right for the stories. We especially admire the one of Little Dermot struggling to get out of the hole with the wee creature "dressed in a green costume the like of which Dermot had never seen" holding out the vine to help him. The pictures make it a very alluring book. Its chief value, though, will be to the storytellers who are missing books like "The Big Tree of Bunlahy."

BIQUETTE THE WHITE GOAT. By Françoise. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. No paging. $2.

This is another engaging picture book by the author-artist who created Jean Marie and her sheep and "Small-Trot." In this a little French girl, Mimi, is ill and the doctor recommends goat's milk. In a nearby village live Miss Sophie and her little white goat, Biquette. Miss Sophie decides that Biquette is destined to restore Mimi to perfect health, so she makes for Biquette a very chic red coat and sends her off. Now Biquette is a rather spoiled little goat. She has what she wants and she does what she wants to do. Mimi is completely well again. Everyone is happy. The color printing is particularly good, Biquette herself has great charm.

THE LITTLE BALLET DANCER. By Monica Sterling. Illustrations by Helen Stone. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 61 pp. $2.50.

Helen Stone's charming drawings, reproduced in sepia with a wash of pale pink and green, are so truly Parisian that anyone who knows Paris is instantly transported to that city. The story, too, is truly, deeply French. It is the tale of little Jean Dupont, whose father was a porter in a railway station, whose mother was a good, efficient housewife who made a happy, comfortable home for her husband and for Jean. It was her godmother, however, who arranged for Jean to become one of the little "rats" trained at the Paris Opera to be ballet dancers. It was rather strenuous work for Jean to keep up with her training and with the school that taught the little dancers the things that one must learn in order to win the "Certificat d'Etudes." If one failed to win it, one could no longer be a member of the Opera Ballet. Jean won it, and we leave her a "big girl" at the school. Her father and mother and godmother are extremely proud of her. Someday she will be a *première danseuse*. Little girls who like tales about other little girls, at home or abroad, will surely like this story of Jean Dupont, and everyone in the family will enjoy the illustrations.

JOHN AND JUAN IN THE JUNGLE. By Ivan T. Sanderson. With twenty-five original paintings in full color by Miguel Covarrubias. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 64 pp. $3.

In order to give full value to the brilliant lithographs from the Covarrubias paintings this looks like a picture book. It is an adventure story set in the Central and South American jungles with two heroes—an American boy and an Indian boy from Nicaragua. Juan acts as a guide to John and his uncle, an engineer, but John develops very quickly a sort of "sixth sense" that makes him completely at home in the dense jungle forests. Each bird, beast, and insect that they come across is described by Ivan Sanderson, and the lithographs give a vivid picture of many of them. They make a short stay in Costa Rica and then go by helicopter to the mountains of Venezuela. The book tells a great deal about the country. With airplane travel what it is now, this should be an excellent guide to adventure there.

NICHOLAS AND THE WOOL-PACK. Written and illustrated by Cynthia Harnett. New York: Putnam's Sons. 181 pp. $2.50.

This story of fifteenth-century England has for its hero the son of a famous grower of wool who is betrothed at the age of fifteen to the daughter of an equally famous weaver. Cecily Bradshaw, when she appears in the story, turns out to be a spirited young

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1 March 1953

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For Younger Readers

The Refugees

THE ARK. By Margot Benary-Isbert. Translated from the German by Clara and Richard Winston. 246 pp. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. $2.50.

For Ages 12 to 16.

IN one of the first books for young people to come out of post-war Germany, we meet the Lechow family, refugees from the East Zone. The father is still in a prison camp in Russia, one son is dead, but Frau Lechow and her four children work valiantly to make the best of the two rooms assigned to them in a battered town crowded with other refugees. Margaret, almost 14, has the hardest time adapting herself, until she becomes kennelmaid on a farm outside the town. She and her oldest brother live in the Ark, an old railroad car, and gradually the car becomes a home for all the Lechows, as well as for a small lost boy.

The setting is unusual and interesting. But the best part of the book deals with the birth, death and care of the animals on the farm described with knowledge and affection. The story is handled rather amateurishly, with too many characters seen from too many points of view, so that the reader is sometimes confused, and the effect is scattered. Moreover there is constant self-pity and a feeling of a world too small and isolated. Apparently all these people have been living in a political vacuum, where no one of them has ever felt sympathy for the Nazis (who are never mentioned), there is something—to this adult reader, at least—disingenuous about the picture.

MARJORIE FISCHER

England Bred Them

THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET DAFFODIL. By Dorothy Clewes. Illustrated by J. Marianne Moll. 246 pp. New York: Coward-McCann. $2.50.

For Ages 8 to 12.

PETER HADLEY, second oldest of the four Hadley children, tells what happened when he and Pop, a police inspector and grower of rare daffodils, start out to develop a red daffodil. The mystery story, set in England, involves gypsies, judges, reporters, neighbors and other assorted characters. Peter manages to cover the five years it took to try for the red daffodil without forgetting the stolen car, the destruction visited upon most of the flowers, the night everyone sat up in a tree by turns to catch the vandal, and all the rest of the complicated plot.

At times too much extraneous information slows the story to a jog. But the author knows so much about people, especially children, and her knowledge is so native, so real and funny, that the interpolated little lessons may be forgiven her. The story is lively, and the Hadleys are as high-spirited and pleasant a family as you are likely to find in a raft of books for young or old.

M. F.

Tapirs and Quetzals

JOHN AND JUAN IN THE JUNGLE. By Ivan T. Sanderson. With paintings by Miguel Covarrubias. 64 pp. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. $3.

For Ages 9 to 12.

IVAN SANDERSON, zoologist, author and TV personality, was inspired to write this book by Miguel Covarrubias' brilliant, realistic paintings of Central American wild life. Like many informational stories, tailored to a pattern, this is better fact than fiction. Its pattern is simple. In Nicaragua John, a visitor from the United States, makes friends with a native boy and together they explore the jungle, encountering such remarkable creatures as anteater and tapir, harpy eagle and quetzal bird—all graphically described.

These encounters have apparently been decided by the subjects of Covarrubias' twenty-five paintings, and the result is a series of episodes instead of a real story. Yet the author manages to work a good deal of action into these episodes. The general effect is tantalizing

From jacket design by Miguel Covarrubias for "John and Juan in the Jungle."

Illustration by Kurt Wiese for "The Dog, the Fox and the Fleas."

and just because of that the book will likely send many readers on to further investigation, in fuller books.

ELLEN LEWIS BUELL

The Changelings

THE MAKE-BELIEVE TWINS. By Phyllis McGinley. Illustrated by Roberta MacDonald. 48 pp. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. $2.50.

For Ages 4 to 8.

BLESSED with enviable imaginations, Peter and Penny are never at a loss for adventure. According to mood, they can and do turn themselves into Eskimos, circus performers or lions in Africa—"The kitchen sink is the water-hole where they go to drink." Such excursions into make-believe are, of course, a favorite game with children. Although Miss McGinley's eight little fantasies are less original than most of her stories, they have style and humor and will doubtless set off some high times in the nursery. The informal rhymes, arranged typographically as prose, swing blithely along and the absurd yet reasonable incorporation of homely objects into the world of pretense is truly childlike. Robert MacDonald's illustrations are popular in style—most kindly described as cute.

E. L. B.

Trustworthy, Loyal

BOYS' LIFE BOOK OF SCOUT STORIES. Selected by Irving Crump. 219 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. $2.50.

For Ages 12 to 16.

BE prepared—to be thrilled by adventure according to the finest traditions of scouting. Here, reprinted from the pages of Boys' Life magazine, are fifteen stories that translate the Scout motto into action.

Few boys in real life manage to ferret out a den of car-stripping thieves, or propel a life line by bow and arrow into a burning building. But most boys will run up against the scoffers found here—those who sneer and call scouting kid stuff until disaster strikes and they find themselves tongue-tied and hamstrung from indecision, fright and the lack of preparedness. Sometimes contrived, but always full of high purpose, the stories carry a genuine flavor of the out-of-doors.

GEORGE A. WOODS.

The Remedy

THE DOG, THE FOX AND THE FLEAS. By Kurt Wiese. Illustrated by the author. New York: David McKay Company. $2.25.

For Ages 4 to 8.

"LISTEN . . . have you heard the story about the dog who was pestered by fleas and how he got rid of them? No?—Well then I will tell you." With this familiar introduction, which has preceded folk tales for generations, Kurt Wiese retells the legend of the dog so beset by fleas that he turns to his worst enemy, the fox, for help. This clever fellow then teaches the dog the trick of backing into a creek with a mouthful of moss.

It is fitting that the old tale should be revived by one whose earlier illustrations and stories are almost legendary themselves. In this particular book, the drawings are as comfortable as the story—neither ingenious nor monotonous. There is a certain vivacity in the broken lines and splashy green coloring which frame the action of the afflicted dogs as they scratch, bite, roll and slide.

MARY LEE KRUPKA.

Jungle Journey

ROARING RIVER. By Bill Brown. Illustrated by Peter Burchard. 250 pp. New York: Coward-McCann. $2.75.

For Ages 12 to 16.

A YOUTH'S coming of age and a jungle journey with survival at stake are the themes of this adventure story. Young Roger Fenwick dislikes Dr. Allen Grove intensely, but goes with him on a mysterious geologic mission to northeastern India. Accompanied by a native boy, they parachute into wild country near the Himalayas and set out down a turbulent river in rubber boats. The party loses its sealed orders, fights the elements and jungle beasts, is lost in a swamp and is captured by hostile natives. Yet the mission succeeds—in a rather pat wind-up—and, in undergoing hardship, Roger achieves maturity.

"Roaring River" has the freshness of an unusual setting with fascinating details about mudfish, barking deer, vicious ants and other strange types of jungle life. It is hard, though, to generate much warmth toward either of the principal characters.

HOWARD BOSTON

SANDBURG, CARL—*Continued*

"Without being in the least sentimental, Carl Sandburg has at last written the book about America that everyone will be able to read and enjoy."

+ U S Quarterly Bk R 9:124 Je '53 230w

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Story of the relationships among a group of male students in a Canadian medical school.

"Most of the time the author is the pitiless, ironic commentator, but happily he has a degree of compassion too. Reading universal truths into this story of one young man's falling in love with another takes considerable imagination, but the author's effective style and his sense of drama and insight is impressive."

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"It all makes fascinating reading—and looking." Polly Goodwin

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Horn Bk 29:219 Je '53 70w

"A luxury item for libraries that can afford it. Grades 5-6." Claire Nolte

Library J 78:743 Ap 15 '53 70w

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+ — N Y Times p32 Mr 1 '53 160w

Reviewed by M. G. Davis

Sat R 36:65 Ap 4 '53 140w

SANDOZ, MARI. Cheyenne autumn. 282p il $4.50 McGraw

970.3 Cheyenne Indians 53-9891

In the fall of 1878 a band of Cheyenne Indians set out from Indian Territory, where they had been sent by the American army, to return to their native haunts in the Yellowstone. This is the saga of that heart breaking journey. Index.

Booklist 50:182 Ja 1 '54

"Actually, Mari Sandoz does more than just tell the story. With her customary skill, she manages to recreate a man, a scene, an event, a page from history, so that thru her prose this great story of the struggle of a small band of homesick, mistreated, half starved Indians against the military might of a major nation takes on the stature of an American epic." August Derleth

+ Chicago Sunday Tribune p12 N 22 '53 370w

Kirkus 21:573 Ag 15 '53 240w

"Recommendations: high on content, qualified on performance." Karl Brown

+ — Library J 78:2027 N 15 '53 90w

"Miss Sandoz has based her story partly on talks with an old Cheyenne woman, a participant in the flight, and other veterans of the frontier, and partly on documentary research. But in the telling she has freely used direct speech and other fictional devices that are rightly frowned upon by historians. Miss Sandoz justifies this breach of the rules by her artistry and the keenness of her ear for the rhythms of Indian speech."

+ Nation 177:473 D 5 '53 280w

"Her story of the flight is as poignant in realism as her biography of her father but in the eighteen years between 'Old Jules' and 'Cheyenne Autumn' her sympathy for the tears that are in human affairs has deepened, and her art now gives the strength, vividness and unity to complexity that it began by giving to simplicity." J. F. Dobie

+ N Y Herald Tribune Bk R p1 D 13 '53 600w

"Because of my bias in favor of all accounts and stories of the Old West, I hesitate to state categorically that this in a great book, but I have a deep suspicion that it is. And I say this in spite of the fact that at times the author annoys and irritates me with her wild partisanship in favor of the Cheyennes." W. R. Burnett

+ N Y Times p6 N 22 '53 850w

"Not only in American history but in all history it is hard to find stories as moving, noble and dramatic as this one. The highest praise one could give any book about it would be to say that it was worthy of its subject. 'Cheyenne Autumn' deserves that accolade." Oliver LaFarge

+ Sat R 36:26 D 12 '53 550w

SANFORD, MRS AGNES MARY (WHITE). Lost shepherd. 316p $3 Lippincott 53-54[illegible]

Because he was unable to save a young r[illegible] turned veteran of the Korean war, Pa[illegible] Forrester, rector of a New Jersey Epi[illegible] church found himself questioning his own fa[illegible] A young woman whose unorthodox ways [illegible] healing at first seemed impious to him [illegible] eventually the means of bringing Paul to [illegible] deeper understanding of his own faith.

"Sentimental oversimplification of comp[illegible] spiritual forces may alienate some readers, [illegible] humor and naturalness of character and episo[illegible] redeem it enough to make it palatable [illegible] others."

Booklist 50:14 S 1 '53

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"Without being in the least sentimental, Carl Sandburg has at last written the book about America that everyone will be able to read and enjoy."

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+ — N Y Times p32 Mr 1 '53 160w

Reviewed by M. G. Davis

Sat R 36:65 Ap 4 '53 140w

SANDERSON, DOUGLAS. Dark passions subdue. 296p $3 Dodd

52-10914

Story of the relationships among a group of male students in a Canadian medical school.

"Most of the time the author is the pitiless, ironic commentator, but happily he has a degree of compassion too. Reading universal truths into this story of one young man's falling in love with another takes considerable imagination, but the author's effective style and his sense of drama and insight is impressive."

N Y Herald Tribune Bk R p9 Ja 4 '53 170w

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SANDERSON, IVAN TERRANCE. John and Juan in the jungle; with 25 original paintings in full color by Miguel Covarrubias. 64p $3 Dodd

Natural history—Juvenile literature

52-12973

"Ivan Sanderson, zoologist, author and TV personality, was inspired to write this book by Miguel Covarrubias' brilliant, realistic paintings of Central American wild life. Like many informational stories, tailored to a pattern, this is better fact than fiction. Its pattern is simple: in Nicaragua, John, a visitor from the United States, makes friends with a native boy and together they explore the jungle, encountering such remarkable creatures as anteater and tapir, harpy eagle and quetzal bird—all graphically described." N Y Times

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+ N Y Herald Tribune Bk R p21 My 17 '53 120w

"The author manages to work a good deal of action into these episodes. The general effect is tantalizing and just because of that

S. u

4 pub 1953 page 65
Vol 36 #14

BOOKS · FOR · YOUNG · PEOPLE

A WISH GRANTED

THIS department remembers protesting vigorously some time ago the lack of good stories that told of boys and girls living and having adventures in other countries. No sooner had the protest gone to print than there appeared on our desk a bulky package of galleys. Straightway we were off on that dramatic, exciting journey through the Gobi Desert to the mountains of Inner Mongolia with Big Tiger and Christian—a strange country and two irresistible boy heroes.

Now that the spring books are coming in we find among them an exceptionally good translation from the German—the story of a family in postwar Berlin. It is a tragic setting, but there is not one really depressing moment in the story. Faith in one another, courage, initiative, humor bring to the saga of the Lechow family unfailing interest and a spirit that is almost gaiety. We find, too, a charming story about a little French ballet dancer in the Paris of today, and a new Françoise picture book about a little white goat. From Ireland, through Richard Bennett, come eight old Celtic folktales with his effective drawings. Doubtless other books as good are on the way. It is fun to make a wish and then sit back and watch it come true!

—MARY GOULD DAVIS.

THE ARK. By Margot Benary-Isbert. Translated by Clara Richard Winston. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 246 pp. $2.50.

This is a book that we have all been waiting for—the story of a family in a foreign country, of a family that had been completely disrupted by war and had won, through their faith in one another, a new security. It is all the more important because the country happens to be postwar Germany. We discover the Lechow family—mother, Margaret, Matthias, Josy, and Andrea—living in two rooms in West Berlin, settling down with a queer old landlady, happy in the crowded quarters because they are together with a roof over their heads. Mrs. Lechow has a positive genius for making a home out of practically nothing. Their father, a doctor, is a prisoner in Russia. Matthias is assigned by the Labor Office to cleaning up the rubble-strewn streets. Joey and Andrea go to school and Joey, in his free hours and accompanied by his equally enterprising little friend, Hans Ulrich, searches the ruined houses and basements for treasure and amazes everyone, including themselves, by finally finding it. Only Margaret, sensitive, deeply hurt by the violent death of her twin brother, is restless and uncertain. Then she finds Rowan Farm and meets its generous, energetic mistress, Mrs. Almut. A very real friendship develops between them as Margaret works on the farm tending the animals. Later Matthias joins her and becomes a successful market gardener. Together he and Margaret, with their musical friend, Dieter, build a little house out of an old railroad car and call it The Ark. Gradually they add to it until it houses the whole family. In the comparative peace of the country, surrounded by growing things and the birds and animals that Margaret tends so well, they settle down. There Dr. Lechow finds them when he finally gets back from Russia—a broken man but a man with something to hope for, to live for. There is no trace of sentimentality in this story but it does "pull at the heart-strings." It is the mother, really, who dominates it, with her courage, her humor, her tolerance, her quiet determination to keep the family together. We leave them reluctantly. We long to know more about them. Boys and girls who read this book will feel as close to Matthias and Joey, Margaret and Andrea as though they were next-door neighbors. It is an important book, one that should reach many, many young Americans.

—By Richard Bennett, from "Little Dermot."

LITTLE DERMOT AND THE THIRSTY STONE: and Other Irish Folk Tales. Written and illustrated by Richard Bennett. New York: Coward-McCann. 92 pp. $2.50.

So many of the lively Celtic folk tales are now out of print. It is especially timely to welcome this collection written and illustrated by Richard Bennett. He remembers hearing some of the tales when he was "a very small boy in Ireland" recalling that "my grandmother laughed very loudly when she told this tale." The title story is a variant of the Legend of Knockmany and of the Brittany legend of Ivon Tortik. There are other variants, but as Mr. Bennett tells them they are pure Irish. The strong, humorous black-and-white drawings are exactly right for the stories. We especially admire the one of Little Dermot struggling to get out of the hole with the wee creature "dressed in a green costume the like of which Dermot had never seen" holding out the vine to help him. The pictures make it a very alluring book. Its chief value, though, will be to the storytellers who are missing books like "The Big Tree of Bunlahy."

BIQUETTE THE WHITE GOAT. By Françoise. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. No paging. $2.

This is another engaging picture book by the author-artist who created Jean Marie and her sheep and "Small-Trot." In this a little French girl, Mimi, is ill and the doctor recommends goat's milk. In a nearby village live Miss Sophie and her little white goat, Biquette. Miss Sophie decides that Biquette is destined to restore Mimi to perfect health, so she makes for Biquette a very chic red coat and sends her off. Now Biquette is a rather spoiled little goat. She has what she wants and she does what she wants to do. Mimi is completely well again. Everyone is happy. The color printing is particularly good, Biquette herself has great charm.

THE LITTLE BALLET DANCER. By Monica Sterling. Illustrations by Helen Stone. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 61 pp. $2.50.

Helen Stone's charming drawings, reproduced in sepia with a wash of pale pink and green, are so truly Parisian that anyone who knows Paris is instantly transported to that city. The story, too, is truly, deeply French. It is the tale of little Jean Dupont, whose father was a porter in a railway station, whose mother was a good, efficient housewife who made a happy, comfortable home for her husband and for Jean. It was her godmother, however, who arranged for Jean to become one of the little "rats" trained at the Paris Opera to be ballet dancers. It was rather strenuous work for Jean to keep up with her training and with the school that taught the little dancers the things that one must learn in order to win the "Certificat d'Etudes." If one failed to win it, one could no longer be a member of the Opera Ballet. Jean won it, and we leave her a "big girl" at the school. Her father and mother and godmother are extremely proud of her. Someday she will be a *première danseuse*. Little girls who like tales about other little girls, at home or abroad, will surely like this story of Jean Dupont, and everyone in the family will enjoy the illustrations.

JOHN AND JUAN IN THE JUNGLE. By Ivan T. Sanderson. With twenty-five original paintings in full color by Miguel Covarrubias. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 64 pp. $3.

In order to give full value to the brilliant lithographs from the Covarrubias paintings this looks like a picture book. It is an adventure story set in the Central and South American jungles with two heroes—an American boy and an Indian boy from Nicaragua. Juan acts as a guide to John and his uncle, an engineer, but John develops very quickly a sort of "sixth sense" that makes him completely at home in the dense jungle forests. Each bird, beast, and insect that they come across is described by Ivan Sanderson, and the lithographs give a vivid picture of many of them. They make a short stay in Costa Rica and then go by helicopter to the mountains of Venezuela. The book tells a great deal about the country. With airplane travel what it is now, this should be an excellent guide to adventure there.

NICHOLAS AND THE WOOL-PACK. Written and illustrated by Cynthia Harnett. New York: Putnam's Sons. 181 pp. $2.50.

This story of fifteenth-century England has for its hero the son of a famous grower of wool who is betrothed at the age of fifteen to the daughter of an equally famous weaver. Cecily Bradshaw, when she appears in the story, turns out to be a spirited young

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1 March 1953

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For Younger Readers

The Refugees

THE ARK. By Margot Benary-Isbert. Translated from the German by Clara and Richard Winston. 246 pp. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. $2.50.

For Ages 12 to 16.

IN one of the first books for young people to come out of post-war Germany, we meet the Lechow family, refugees from the East Zone. The father is still in a prison camp in Russia, one son is dead, but Frau Lechow and her four children work valiantly to make the best of the two rooms assigned to them in a battered town crowded with other refugees. Margaret, almost 14, has the hardest time adapting herself, until she becomes kennelmaid on a farm outside the town. She and her oldest brother live in the Ark, an old railroad car, and gradually the car becomes a home for all the Lechows, as well as for a small lost boy.

The setting is unusual and interesting. But the best part of the book deals with the birth, death and care of the animals on the farm described with knowledge and affection. The story is handled rather amateurishly, with too many characters seen from too many points of view, so that the reader is sometimes confused, and the effect is scattered. Moreover there is constant self-pity and a feeling of a world too small and isolated. Apparently all these people have been living in a political vacuum, where no one of them has ever felt sympathy for the Nazis (who are never mentioned), there is something—to this adult reader, at least—disingenuous about the picture.

MARJORIE FISCHER

England Bred Them

THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET DAFFODIL. By Dorothy Clewes. Illustrated by J. Marianne Moll. 246 pp. New York: Coward-McCann. $2.50.

For Ages 8 to 12.

PETER HADLEY, second oldest of the four Hadley children, tells what happened when he and Pop, a police inspector and grower of rare daffodils, start out to develop a red daffodil. The mystery story, set in England, involves gypsies, judges, reporters, neighbors and other assorted characters. Peter manages to cover the five years it took to try for the red daffodil without forgetting the stolen car, the destruction visited upon most of the flowers, the night everyone sat up in a tree by turns to catch the vandal, and all the rest of the complicated plot.

At times too much extraneous information slows the story to a jog. But the author knows so much about people, especially children, and her knowledge is so native, so real and funny, that the interpolated little lessons may be forgiven her. The story is lively, and the Hadleys are as high-spirited and pleasant a family as you are likely to find in a raft of books for young or old.

M. F.

Tapirs and Quetzals

JOHN AND JUAN IN THE JUNGLE. By Ivan T. Sanderson. With paintings by Miguel Covarrubias. 64 pp. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. $3.

For Ages 9 to 12.

IVAN SANDERSON, zoologist, author and TV personality, was inspired to write this book by Miguel Covarrubias' brilliant, realistic paintings of Central American wild life. Like many informational stories, tailored to a pattern, this is better fact than fiction. Its pattern is simple. In Nicaragua John, a visitor from the United States, makes friends with a native boy and together they explore the jungle, encountering such remarkable creatures as anteater and tapir, harpy eagle and quetzal bird—all graphically described.

These encounters have apparently been decided by the subjects of Covarrubias' twenty-five paintings, and the result is a series of episodes instead of a real story. Yet the author manages to work a good deal of action into these episodes. The general effect is tantalizing

From jacket design by Miguel Covarrubias for "John and Juan in the Jungle."

Illustration by Kurt Wiese for "The Dog, the Fox and the Fleas."

and just because of that the book will likely send many readers on to further investigation, in fuller books.

ELLEN LEWIS BUELL

The Changelings

THE MAKE-BELIEVE TWINS. By Phyllis McGinley. Illustrated by Roberta MacDonald. 48 pp. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. $2.50.

For Ages 4 to 8.

BLESSED with enviable imaginations, Peter and Penny are never at a loss for adventure. According to mood, they can and do turn themselves into Eskimos, circus performers or lions in Africa—"The kitchen sink is the water-hole where they go to drink." Such excursions into make-believe are, of course, a favorite game with children. Although Miss McGinley's eight little fantasies are less original than most of her stories, they have style and humor and will doubtless set off some high times in the nursery. The informal rhymes, arranged typographically as prose, swing blithely along and the absurd yet reasonable incorporation of homely objects into the world of pretense is truly childlike. Robert MacDonald's illustrations are popular in style—most kindly described as cute.

E. L. B.

Trustworthy, Loyal

BOYS' LIFE BOOK OF SCOUT STORIES. Selected by Irving Crump. 219 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. $2.50.

For Ages 12 to 16.

BE prepared—to be thrilled by adventure according to the finest traditions of scouting. Here, reprinted from the pages of Boys' Life magazine, are fifteen stories that translate the Scout motto into action.

Few boys in real life manage to ferret out a den of car-stripping thieves, or propel a life line by bow and arrow into a burning building. But most boys will run up against the scoffers found here—those who sneer and call scouting kid stuff until disaster strikes and they find themselves tongue-tied and hamstrung from indecision, fright and the lack of preparedness. Sometimes contrived, but always full of high purpose, the stories carry a genuine flavor of the out-of-doors.

GEORGE A. WOODS.

The Remedy

THE DOG, THE FOX AND THE FLEAS. By Kurt Wiese. Illustrated by the author. New York: David McKay Company. $2.25.

For Ages 4 to 8.

"LISTEN . . . have you heard the story about the dog who was pestered by fleas and how he got rid of them? No?—Well then I will tell you." With this familiar introduction, which has preceded folk tales for generations, Kurt Wiese retells the legend of the dog so beset by fleas that he turns to his worst enemy, the fox, for help. This clever fellow then teaches the dog the trick of backing into a creek with a mouthful of moss.

It is fitting that the old tale should be revived by one whose earlier illustrations and stories are almost legendary themselves. In this particular book, the drawings are as comfortable as the story—neither ingenious nor monotonous. There is a certain vivacity in the broken lines and splashy green coloring which frame the action of the afflicted dogs as they scratch, bite, roll and slide.

MARY LEE KRUPKA.

Jungle Journey

ROARING RIVER. By Bill Brown. Illustrated by Peter Burchard. 250 pp. New York: Coward-McCann. $2.75.

For Ages 12 to 16.

A YOUTH'S coming of age and a jungle journey with survival at stake are the themes of this adventure story. Young Roger Fenwick dislikes Dr. Allen Grove intensely, but goes with him on a mysterious geologic mission to northeastern India. Accompanied by a native boy, they parachute into wild country near the Himalayas and set out down a turbulent river in rubber boats. The party loses its sealed orders, fights the elements and jungle beasts, is lost in a swamp and is captured by hostile natives. Yet the mission succeeds—in a rather pat wind-up—and, in undergoing hardship, Roger achieves maturity.

"Roaring River" has the freshness of an unusual setting with fascinating details about mudfish, barking deer, vicious ants and other strange types of jungle life. It is hard, though, to generate much warmth toward either of the principal characters.

HOWARD BOSTON

SANDBURG, CARL—*Continued*

"Without being in the least sentimental, Carl Sandburg has at last written the book about America that everyone will be able to read and enjoy."

+ U S Quarterly Bk R 9:124 Je '53 230w

SANDERSON, DOUGLAS. Dark passions subdue. 296p $3 Dodd 52-10914

Story of the relationships among a group of male students in a Canadian medical school.

"Most of the time the author is the pitiless, ironic commentator, but happily he has a degree of compassion too. Reading universal truths into this story of one young man's falling in love with another takes considerable imagination, but the author's effective style and his sense of drama and insight is impressive."

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"A distinguished book on all counts. . . . The story, written around the pictures, has its own spontaneity. But the Covarrubias paintings, reproduced in full color, are the heart of this fascinating book on jungle animals of Central and South America."

+ Bookmark 12:158 Ap '53 40w

"It all makes fascinating reading—and looking." Polly Goodwin

+ Chicago Sunday Tribune p14 Ap 19 '53 120w

"An excellent combination of the imaginative and the factual." Elizabeth Yates

+ Christian Science Monitor p14 My 14 '53 90w

Horn Bk 29:219 Je '53 70w

"A luxury item for libraries that can afford it. Grades 5-6." Claire Nolte

Library J 78:743 Ap 15 '53 70w

"The story, being manufactured to fit, is no classic. But it does give one a vivid feeling of the two boys, one American, one native, hunting strange creatures in several countries —Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela. It describes the animals very capably."

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+ — N Y Times p32 Mr 1 '53 160w

Reviewed by M. G. Davis

Sat R 36:65 Ap 4 '53 140w

SANDOZ, MARI. Cheyenne autumn. 282p il $4.50 McGraw

970.3 Cheyenne Indians 53-9891

In the fall of 1878 a band of Cheyenne Indians set out from Indian Territory, where they had been sent by the American army, to return to their native haunts in the Yellowstone. This is the saga of that heart breaking journey. Index.

Booklist 50:182 Ja 1 '54

"Actually, Mari Sandoz does more than just tell the story. With her customary skill, she manages to recreate a man, a scene, an event, a page from history, so that thru her prose this great story of the struggle of a small band of homesick, mistreated, half starved Indians against the military might of a major nation takes on the stature of an American epic." August Derleth

+ Chicago Sunday Tribune p12 N 22 '53 370w

Kirkus 21:573 Ag 15 '53 240w

"Recommendations: high on content, qualified on performance." Karl Brown

+ — Library J 78:2027 N 15 '53 90w

"Miss Sandoz has based her story partly on talks with an old Cheyenne woman, a participant in the flight, and other veterans of the frontier, and partly on documentary research. But in the telling she has freely used direct speech and other fictional devices that are rightly frowned upon by historians. Miss Sandoz justifies this breach of the rules by her artistry and the keenness of her ear for the rhythms of Indian speech."

+ Nation 177:473 D 5 '53 280w

"Her story of the flight is as poignant in realism as her biography of her father but in the eighteen years between 'Old Jules' and 'Cheyenne Autumn' her sympathy for the tears that are in human affairs has deepened, and her art now gives the strength, vividness and unity to complexity that it began by giving to simplicity." J. F. Dobie

+ N Y Herald Tribune Bk R p1 D 13 '53 600w

"Because of my bias in favor of all accounts and stories of the Old West, I hesitate to state categorically that this in a great book, but I have a deep suspicion that it is. And I say this in spite of the fact that at times the author annoys and irritates me with her wild partisanship in favor of the Cheyennes." W. R. Burnett

+ N Y Times p6 N 22 '53 850w

"Not only in American history but in all history it is hard to find stories as moving, noble and dramatic as this one. The highest praise one could give any book about it would be to say that it was worthy of its subject. 'Cheyenne Autumn' deserves that accolade." Oliver LaFarge

+ Sat R 36:26 D 12 '53 550w

SANFORD, MRS AGNES MARY (WHITE). Lost shepherd. 316p $3 Lippincott 53-54[illegible]

Because he was unable to save a young r[illegible] turned veteran of the Korean war, Pa[illegible] Forrester, rector of a New Jersey Epi[illegible] church found himself questioning his own fa[illegible] A young woman whose unorthodox ways [illegible] healing at first seemed impious to him [illegible] eventually the means of bringing Paul to [illegible] deeper understanding of his own faith.

"Sentimental oversimplification of comp[illegible] spiritual forces may alienate some readers, [illegible] humor and naturalness of character and episo[illegible] redeem it enough to make it palatable [illegible] others."

Booklist 50:14 S 1 '53